

**Richard Gach**  
**4301 Derry Road**  
**Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48302-1835**

January 18, 2002

**Attorney General John Ashcroft**  
**US Department of Justice**  
**950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW**  
**Washington, DC 20530**

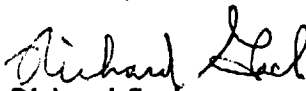
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to add my support of the Justice Department settling the Microsoft lawsuit, which is scheduled to be finalized at the end of the month. As a libertarian, I am in full support of our free market system and believe that the government's attack on a successful company because of its market position is against the principles I support. This deal is the most acceptable outcome at this point.

To emphasize the importance of this ruling, I would like to note the recent economic growth this country enjoyed without inflation during the 1990's, which was the result of increased productivity; increased productivity was definitely powered by the growth of the PC industry. And, of course, the number-one player in that industry has been Microsoft. To damage such a key player in the nation's economy is a major mistake that should be avoided at all costs. With Microsoft's commitments to neither favor nor punish computer makers that use or don't use competitor products with the Windows operating system, and to allow licensing of its intellectual property and access to its internal Windows interfaces and server protocols, the current agreement should more than suffice to create wider competition in the software industry.

Please support the approval of the proposed Microsoft settlement and allow free enterprise to guide the technology revolution once again. I thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Richard Gach